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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	Administrative Action
Duvahl Meadows, L.P.N.	:	
License No. 26NE00577600	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
TO PRACTICE NURSING	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Duvahl Meadows ("Respondent") is licensed as a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all relevant times.

2. On or about April 29, 2011, Respondent completed an online biennial license renewal application which contains a question asking "Will you have completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2011?" Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer to be true by submitting the online application.

3. On or about March 5, 2013, the Board sent Respondent a letter requesting certain information, including proof of

completion of required continuing education for the June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2011 biennial renewal period.

4. Respondent provided certificates of completion indicating that she had completed 19.5 hours of continuing education within the June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2011 biennial period.

5. On or about May 2, 2013, Respondent completed an online biennial license renewal application which contains a question asking "Will you have completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2013?" Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer to be true by submitting the online application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, a nurse shall complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education per biennial period. Falsification of any information submitted on the renewal application may result in penalties and/or suspension or revocation of the license. N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(a). Additionally, a registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse shall maintain continuing education compliance documentation for a period of four years after completion of the hours and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request. N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f).

Respondent's failure to provide proof of completion of 30 hours of continuing education during the June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2011 biennial period constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct within the intendment

of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and also constitutes a violation or failure to comply with a regulation administered by the Board within in the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Further, the Board finds that Respondent's submission of her 2011 renewal, wherein she answered affirmatively that she had completed, or would complete, the required continuing education, when she did not complete the required continuing education, constitutes the use or employment of dishonesty, deception, or misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b). See also N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on September 12, 2013, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and imposing a reprimand and a \$250.00 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order via her attorney. Ms. Meadows has demonstrated that she is now up-to-date with continuing education requirements, although she was unable to demonstrate timely completion of the requirements for the 2009-2011 biennial renewal period. Therefore, the Board found that suspension was no longer appropriate. However, the Board further found that finalization of the order with the imposition of a reprimand and civil penalty was warranted, as Ms. Meadows did not comply with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3's requirements, and indicated on her 2011 renewal application that she would have timely satisfied the requirements.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 19th day of November, 2013,

ORDERED that:

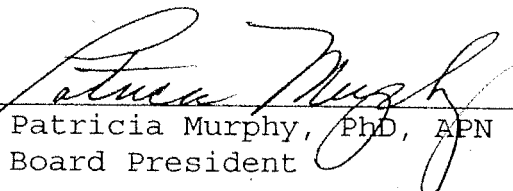
1. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) is hereby imposed upon Respondent for failing to complete thirty hours of continuing education during the June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2011 biennial renewal period. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," delivered to George Hebert, Executive Director, State of Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the entry of any Final Order of Discipline in this matter. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be

filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

2. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for her violations of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (b).

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President